



The monthly newsletter from the churches of  
St Nicholas Stevenage + St Mary's Graveley



[www.saintnicholaschurch.org.uk](http://www.saintnicholaschurch.org.uk)

[www.saintmarysgraveley.org.uk](http://www.saintmarysgraveley.org.uk)

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Dear friends,

October 2022

It is with great joy that we can confirm that the Parish Profile is now completed and was signed off by both PCCs on the 24<sup>th</sup> September. Immediately following this meeting, we had the pre-vacancy meeting with Archdeacon Janet (Archdeacon of Hertford) where she discussed the interview process with both PCCs. We also agreed our advertisement for the new Rector at the same meeting.

The Advertisement is out now! It is in the Church Times for three weeks commencing on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September and will also be on the diocesan website along with the Church Profile, which you can also see on our own website. We are also advertising with the Church Society and with ReNew.

So where do we go from here? The closing date of the advert is 26<sup>th</sup> October at 12 noon. Short-listing will take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> November and the interviews will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> November. Bishop Alan, the local Archdeacon, Rural Dean and four parish representatives will interview the candidates. There will be a maximum of four candidates on the day and the interview process will be concluded on the same day.

The most important thing that we should be doing now is to pray. Pray that God is calling the Rector for our churches, and they would be hearing that call and they will answer that call. Ask God that he would give wisdom and discernment to those who will be short-listing and interviewing the candidates.

We need prayers for both churches that as we go through the interregnum, we will keep worshipping

and praying together and looking after one another and also going out with the Gospel. As Paul says in Philippians 4v6, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

There are plenty of opportunities to pray together this month - please see the "Come and pray together" section in this month's Herald; there are different times that we can pray, and we do not have to pray out loud, we can pray silently, or we can use prayers that have been written down.

At this time, let's continue to grow spiritually. So being at church is important, as is praying, reading the Bible, and also by being in a home group if you're able.

We need to be praying for the preachers coming to both churches that they will preach the word faithfully, uphold the truth and as that word goes out week by week it will change lives, and that God will be adding those who are his to his kingdom and renewing our faith.

Do start praying now for all our Christmas events! We will shortly be planning for these. We know that we will not be able to run all the Christmas services that we normally do. We will still plan for a carol service, Christingle service, and we hope to go back into Truro and Norman Courts to sing carols there. And it's great we have been contacted by several schools who want to hold services in St Nicholas church. There will also be our Ladies Christmas event and some others in the pipeline, so watch this space! And pray!

**Karen Walker, Church Warden St Nicholas Church**

## Special Events this October

**St Nicholas Church Walking Group** – The next walk is on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October from The Rising Sun pub at Halls Green, at 10.00 am. The circular walk is approx 5 miles. Suitable walking shoes and clothing recommended as we are heading into the colder, wetter months. Bring a drink and snack if needed. Best route by car to Halls Green is via Graveley/Weston. Please let Karen Cattell know if you are walking and if you want to book for lunch.



Also, the processing centre in Cambridge needs volunteers to check the shoeboxes before they are packed for shipment overseas.

**Volunteers needed to help in church 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Nov, and to transport boxes to Cambridge from 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Nov**  
**Contact Stuart Marshall for details**

### CHANGES TO THE PATTERN OF SUNDAY

**WORSHIP:** Both churches will have services of Holy Communion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, and Services of the Word on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays. 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays will be joint Services of the Word - starting at 10:30am, with the venue moving between the 2 churches.

**REQUEST FOR HELP:** If anyone would be willing to occasionally rent out a spare room in their house to a temporary Registrar working at the Lister Hospital, please contact [admin@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk)

The room would only be needed occasionally to avoid driving home some distance away after a long day shift or during night shifts.

## OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



### Monthly Prayer Meeting

'Friends of Bridge Builders' meet on the first Thursday of each month to pray for the Bridge Builders' team, projects and all the children and staff in our local primary schools.

Next meeting: Thursday 2 - 3.30pm on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at St Pauls Methodist Church, Stevenage SG2 8QR

All welcome



**Come and pray together.**

This month our **Prayer Meetings and Services of Evening Prayer** are as follows:

Wednesdays 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

7am-8am Early morning prayer on Zoom

7pm-7.30pm Evening Prayer at St Nicks

Wednesdays 5<sup>th</sup> + 19<sup>th</sup>

7pm-8pm Benefice Prayer Meeting at St Nicks

*St Nicholas will also be open for visitors and private prayer on Tuesdays from 2-4pm, Wednesdays from 12noon-2pm and Thursdays from 10am-12 noon*



**Sunday Bible Readings**

2<sup>nd</sup> Hebrews 12: 14-29    9<sup>th</sup> Hebrews 13: 1-25  
16<sup>th</sup> Genesis 12: 1-9    23<sup>rd</sup> Genesis 12: 10-20  
30<sup>th</sup> Genesis 15: 1-21

### Preachers for October:

2<sup>nd</sup> Philip Walker

9<sup>th</sup> Rev Adam Prior

16<sup>th</sup> Benson Chiang

23<sup>rd</sup> Rev Ray Porter

30<sup>th</sup> Rev Matt Taylor

**NB. Joint service at St Nicks at 10.30am**

**NB. The clocks go back on the 30<sup>th</sup> October!**

## KEY CONTACT DETAILS

St Nicholas Church, Rectory Lane, Stevenage, SG1 4DA  
St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Graveley, SG4 7LY

### CHURCH WARDENS:

St Nicks                      Mike Wilton – 07946 140909

St Nicks                      Karen Walker – 07427 576870

[churchwardens@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk](mailto:churchwardens@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk)

St Mary's                      Eunice Sirkett – 07709 248625

Enquiries for weddings, funerals and baptisms – 07733 995779 or [admin@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk)